



## **RECORD OF CONVERSATION**

**Mitchell Gallo**  
**Aviation Accident Investigator**  
**Central Region**

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**Date: March 8, 2015**  
**Person Contacted: Willie Thomas**  
**Participants:**  
    **Federal Aviation Administration: Randal Ottinger, Del Deathridge**  
    **Airbus Helicopters: Seth Butner**  
    **Air Evac: Michael Koenes; Donald Lambert; Michael Benton**  
**NTSB Accident Number: CEN15FA164**

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### **Narrative:**

During a telephone conversation, Willie Thomas stated that he was sitting in his truck parked across from the St Louis University Hospital emergency room when he saw a light shine on his truck, "the light was coming closer and closer." After a while, the light turned around and disappeared "quick." The light shined for about two minutes. His truck was facing west because it was parked on Vista, which is a one way street. The light shined on the truck for about two minutes. The light turned sideways, and it was a clear white light. The other lights he saw on the back of the helicopter "looked like red and green" from the tail. He said he could not hear the helicopter. The helicopter was "coming forward" and it took a "little tail spin" before it went out of sight. The helicopter went north and "went down." He saw the helicopter "side" and "back" and then it went down. He did not see any fire from the helicopter before the accident. He did not hear any noise after it went out of sight. He said that his truck was parked across from the hospital ambulance entrance. He said the helicopter made a "regular turn" and he could see its side, which was to his left before it went down. He saw it "spin only once and not more." He said the helicopter was pointing "straight down as it turned left." He said it was not "quite straight down" and the light was shining on the ground as it was going down on an angle. He said that he did not see the helicopter "wobble." He said a security guard came out and walked down Thistle. Mr. Thomas said he got out of his truck, and the wind was "going pretty hard," going north. He said that helicopter was about 15 feet above the overhead tunnel between the hospital and hospital garage. He did not see the bottom of the helicopter because of the light. He said the wind was not shaking his truck while he was sitting inside of it.

Mitchell Gallo  
Air Safety Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board